



The Bible: God's Word or  
Religious Fables?

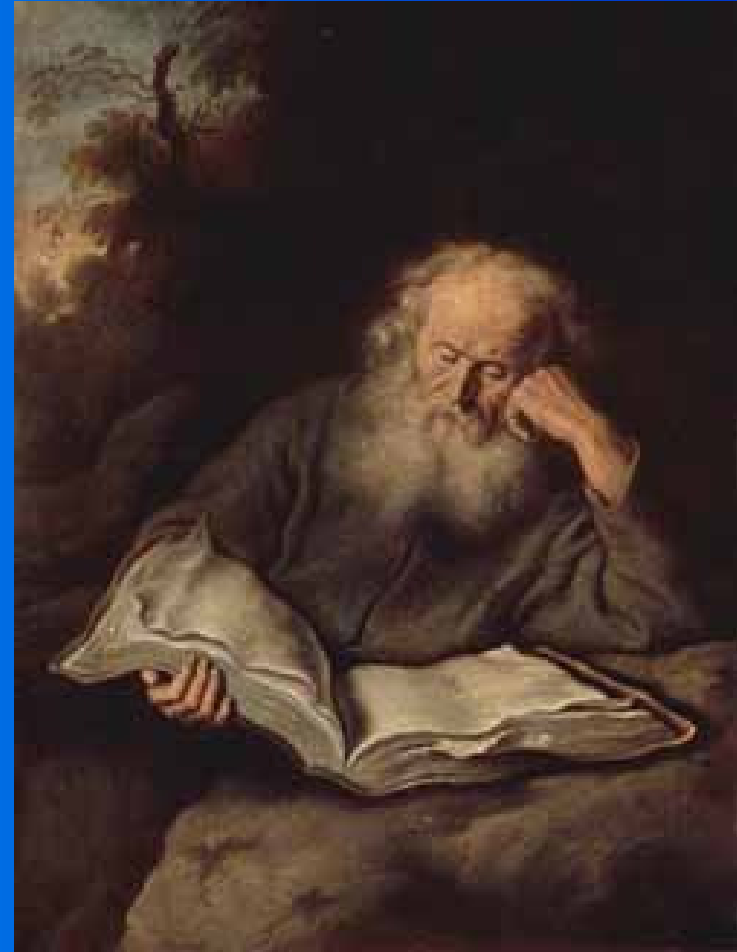
Is the Bible Accurate?

Can the Bible Be Trusted?

Is the Bible a Reliable Guide to Life?

# Historical Perspectives: The Early Church

- The understanding that the Bible came from God and is without error has been held since the early days of the church
- Early Church Fathers such as Clement, Polycarp, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Athanasius, and Augustine contended that the Bible had a divine origin as the Word of God



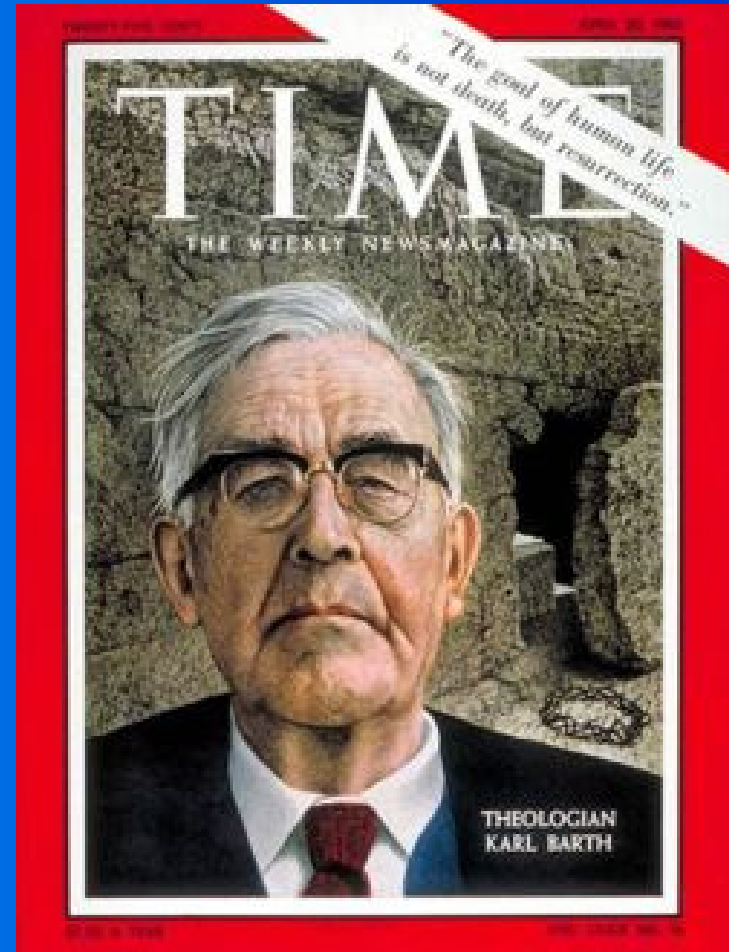
# Historical Perspectives: The Classic Liberal View



- Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768 – 1834): The starting point for religion is inner experience, not propositions and dogmas
- F. C. Baur (1792 – 1860) and David F. Strauss (1808 – 1874) assert that human reason is sole guide to reliability of NT and therefore rule out the possibility of the miraculous
- Historical criticism of the Bible rules out any supernatural element to the text of Scripture

# Historical Perspectives: The Neo-Orthodox View

- The social gospel and moralistic kingdom of God advocated by classic liberals was shattered by the horrors of World War I
- Karl Barth (1886 – 1968) and others reacted against the errors of liberalism by claiming that God’s revelation entails an encounter of Christ through the Word of God; revelation is an experience rather than a set of propositions
- Problem: Still denied the historical reliability of Scripture
- Distinguished between Christ known by faith and the Christ of history



# Historical Perspectives: The “Inspired but Errant” View

- Proponents believe that the Bible is trustworthy and infallible when dealing with matters of major importance such as faith in Christ and the nature of Christian living. However, in peripheral matters dealing with science, history, chronology, or geography, the Bible is not only liable to error, but does in fact occasionally make mistakes
- Contemporary evangelical theologian Clark Pinnock accuses those who hold to an infallible Bible as guilty of “Bibliolatry.” He urges believers to recognize that there are “inconsequential errors” in the text of the Bible.



# Crucial Terms to Understand

*Revelation:* The divine act of communicating to humanity what otherwise we could not know but what must be learned in order for us to be rightly related to God.



# Revelation

- God's revelation is given *progressively* ("Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets" Heb 1:1, ESV)
- God's revelation involves a *genuine awareness and knowledge of God* ("And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life" 1 John 5:20, NASB)
- God's revelation is given in *propositions*, that is truth statements, ideas, concepts, thoughts and words ("This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words" 1 Cor 2:13, NIV).

# Types of Revelation



*General Revelation* is God's witness of Himself to all men. It is given to mankind in general and gives a general knowledge of God ("The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard" Ps 19:1-3, NLT).

It is a universal witness to His existence and something of His character. There is nothing in general revelation about the love of God, the character of sin, the need for faith and repentance, the person and work of Jesus Christ, or the promise of forgiveness.

# Care Groups

## **Jonathan & Janet Moore**

Sue Ann Beardsley	Daniel Breznau
Michael Cabic	Kevin Collins
Ben Jones	Bethany Kruger
Anne McWethy	Paul Smith
Travis Smith	

### *Away @ School:*

Trevor Brunckhorst	Jeanna Davis
Jessica Moreno	Brad Schick

## **Mike Moses & Marilyn Burns**

Eric Arnason	Jordan Brett
Rami Hanna	Shane Hanna
Sarah Harris	Deanna Kaleal
Margie King	Pat Laitinen
Kayleigh Taylor	Matt Veeder
Jesse Vincent	

### *Away @ School:*

Mike Hargrove	Jonathan Moreno
Richard Sherman	Brittany Watterworth

## **Aaron Burns & Tracie Wright**

Jeff Fisher	Lisa Knies
Nathan Kruger	Ashley MacIntosh
Allison Moore	Nathan Peloquin
Scott Tucker	Whitney Turner
Chet Vincent	Molly DeGraff

### *Away @ School:*

Krystle MacDonald	Matt Verley
Will Wagner	Cole Welby

## **Andrew Commins, Aaron Moore, & Kelly Bartley**

Carlos Black	Grace Breznau
Andrea Dewar	Jennifer Flowers
Aleta Lockhart	Dan Stickrad
Joel Trumble	Brooke Watterworth
Kristina Korany	

### *Away @ School:*

Tammy Hunter	Ashley MacLeod
Ryan Marsh	Clinton Verley
Brandon Watterworth	